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IDENTIFICATION OF DOCUMENT

Memoranda by ADIC and ADPC - Subject: Relationship of PSB and NSC.

ABSTRACT NOTATION REFERENCES

Discussion of relationship between PSB, NSC and Representatives in guiding OPC.

DOCUMENT LOCATION

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25 May 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Policy Coordination

SUBJECT: Relationship of the PSB to the NSC

1. The attached paper tries to identify the specific problems which should arise in a discussion of the relationship of the PSB to the NSC. (See the proposed agenda for the first meeting of the PSB.)
2. I would appreciate if you would let me know if these are the correct problems and comment in any other way on the paper - redrafting it if you wish. I have also sent copies of this to Mr. Dulles and Mr. Houston. Could I have your reactions by Tuesday, 29 May?

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Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

24 May 1951

RELATIONSHIP OF THE PSB TO THE NSC

1. The President's directive of April 4, 1951, establishing the Psychological Strategy Board states that "The Board will report to the NSC on the Board's activities and on its evaluation of the national psychological operations..."
2. The National Security Act of 1947, as amended in 1949, states that "The function of the Council (NSC) shall be to advise the President with respect to..." The Council shall also make certain "recommendations" and "reports" to the President.
3. The suggestion has been made that the NSC should formally adopt the President's directive of April 4 in order legally and clearly to establish the NSC-PSB relationship envisaged in that directive.

In view of the fact that the NSC can merely "advise" the President and "make recommendations," which are inoperative until approved by him, it is apparent that the Council has no decision-making authority apart from the President (whether that authority is retained by the President personally or delegated to the NSC or to the individual members thereof). It does not appear necessary therefore for the NSC to confirm any directive of the President even where its own functions are involved.

4. The question was also raised as to whether there might not be some conflict between the President's directive and NSC 10/2.

A large part of the possible area of conflict was specifically dealt with in the April 4 directive, which stated that "... the operational planning and execution of all activities (other than overt types of economic warfare) envisioned under NSC 59/1 and NSC 10/2 shall remain,

subject to this directive, as therein assigned."

Insofar as any conflict may arise that is separate from the "operational planning and execution" of these activities, it is dealt with only by implication and would be resolved in favor of the April 4 directive on the theory that a subsequent issuance by the same authority is controlling.

5. The PSB was established and derives its authority from the President, who has directed that its reports be made to the NSC. It is presumed that the PSB will operate independently of the NSC Senior Staff although informal liaison and coordination with that Staff would be very helpful, if not essential.

6. The relationship of the work of the PSB to that of the NSC will be of two kinds. First, the PSB will reach agreements on the solution of problems within the field of their responsibilities, and, recognizing problems in that field on which they disagree or on which Presidential approval is required, PSB will refer them to the NSC.

Second, the PSB will act on the basis of policies and papers approved by the NSC. They will see that the psychological weapons at their disposal are employed to maximum effectiveness in pursuance of NSC policies.

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Relationship of PSC to NSC

1. This is in response to your request of 24 May 1951 for comments on your draft memorandum on the above subject.

2. I suggest adding one additional problem to those which you have listed. This involves the question of guidance to OPC which, as you know, under NSC 10/2 is furnished by representatives of the Departments of State and Defense. The PSC should clearly furnish this guidance on the more important policy questions at such time as the Board is set up to discharge this responsibility. I assume that appropriate provision for this can be made through NSC actions. Such action should not be so broad as to eliminate or completely supersede the provision for continued guidance by State and Defense to OPC - as this is needed and has been most helpful in the past. I feel that it would be well to have this question discussed along with the others which you referred to.

3. Otherwise, your memorandum appears to me to be sound and well conceived.

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[redacted]
Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

Distribution:

Addressee - 1

[redacted]

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[redacted] /amp; 8 June 1951

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